



100 Years of the Kakori Train Action

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Why in News?

The **Kakori Train Action**, which took place in **August 1925** near Kakori village close to Lucknow, holds a significant place in India's freedom struggle.

What was the Kakori Train Action?

- **About:** On **9th August 1925**, Indian revolutionaries carried out the Kakori train action on the **Number 8 Down** train from Shahjahanpur to Lucknow, **aiming to seize British government funds** to support the freedom struggle.
- **Background:** After the **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919)** and suspension of Non-Cooperation Movement (1922), young nationalists formed **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) (1924)** to fund **revolutionary activities** by seizing **British treasury money** transported by train.
- **Personalities Involved:** It was carried out by **revolutionaries** like **Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, Keshav Chakraborty, Mukundi Lal, Banwari Lal, and Chandrashekhar Azad** (member of HRA).
- **British Response:** British crackdown after the Kakori robbery led to arrests of many, of whom 17 were jailed, four transported for life and four—**Bismil, Ashfaqullah, Roshan Singh and Rajendra Lahiri** were hanged. Kakori proved to be a setback.
 - **Chandrashekhar Azad** was one of the few revolutionaries who managed to escape police charges.

Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)

- **Foundation & Members:** HRA was formed by a group of disillusioned youth after Gandhi halted the **Non-Cooperation Movement (1922)**.
 - It was founded in October 1924 in Kanpur by Ramprasad Bismil, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee and Sachin Sanyal.
- **Ideology:** On **1st January 1925**, HRA released its manifesto '**Krantikari**' (Revolutionary). It aims to establish a **federal Republic of the United States of India** via **organized armed revolution**.
 - It depicted revolutionaries as **not terrorists**, using violence only as **necessary retaliation**.
- **HRA Renamed as HSRA:** In 1928, under **Chandra Shekhar Azad**'s leadership, the **HRA** was renamed as **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)**, with **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Bhagwati Charan Vohra, Bejoy Kumar Sinha, Shiv Verma, and Jaidev Kapur** among key participants.
 - **The HSRA** adopted **collective leadership and socialism** as its official goal.
 - It carried out major actions, including protests against the **Simon Commission (1927)**, the **assassination of JP Saunders (1928)**, and the **Viceroy Irwin train bombing (1929)**.
 - By the 1930s, **British crackdowns** fragmented the HSRA.

- **Significance:** The **HRA/HSRA** linked **revolutionary nationalism with socialist thought**, offering a **youth-led alternative** to non-violent struggle.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. With reference to 8th August, 1942 in Indian history, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) The Quit India Resolution was adopted by the AICC.
- (b) The Viceroy's Executive Council was expanded to include more Indians.
- (c) The Congress ministries resigned in seven provinces.
- (d) Cripps proposed an Indian Union with full Dominion Status once the Second World War was over.

Ans: (a)

Q. With reference to Indian freedom struggle, consider the following events: (2017)

1. Mutiny in Royal Indian Navy
2. Quit India Movement launched
3. Second Round Table Conference

What is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

- (a) 1 - 2 - 3
- (b) 2 - 1 - 3
- (c) 3 - 2 - 1
- (d) 3 - 1 - 2

Ans: (c)